

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PARM, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: LABOR ELECTION MANIFESTO - DEFENSE ASPECTS

1. THE ELECTION MANIFESTO RELEASED BY BRITISH LABOR PARTY YESTERDAY (16 SEPT) HAS TIPPED THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND FOR THE FIRST TIME ON ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ITS DEFENSE REVIEW. AFTER STATING THE CUSTOMARY GOAL OF REMOVING AMERICAN POLARIS BASES FROM THE BRITISH ISLES, IN THE CONTEXT OF MULTI-LATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE MANIFESTO STATES "WE HAVE RENOUNCED ANY INTENTION OF MOVING TOWARD A NEW GENERATION OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS". EMBOFFS WILL SEEK IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH PARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AMPLIFICATION OF THIS SEEMINGLY UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT AND ITS MEANING FOR BRITAIN'S OVER-ALL DEFENSE POSTURE.

2. OTHERWISE THE MANIFESTO TREATS DEFENSE ISSUES CUR-

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SORILY AND WITHOUT BREAKING ANY NEW GROUND. THE LABOR PARTY WILL SEEK "TO BRING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE

GENEVA CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION," PRESS FORWARD WITH ITS WIDE-RANGING DEFENSE REVIEW AND PLAN TO REDUCE BRITAIN'S DEFENSE BURDEN TO THE LEVEL CARRIED BY ITS MAJOR EUROPEAN ALLIES -- WITH ANNUAL SAVINGS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLIONS OF POUNDS -- AND PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AT VIENNA.

3. THE MANIFESTO PLEDGES THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR NATO AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DETENTE AS WELL AS DEFENSE, STATING ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE AS ACHIEVING A "SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP IN EUROPE" THROUGH THE CONCURRENT PHASING OUT OF BOTH NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT. IN THIS CONNECTION THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK TO IMPROVE BI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE USSR AND THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AS WELL AS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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